

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01061 261348Z

72

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1861

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: LUAR HOLDS FIRST CONGRESS

REF: LISBON 5321

SUMMARY: REVOLUTIONARY ACTION GROUP LUAR HELD FIRST CONGRESS FEB 22-24. GROUP SPOKESMAN INDICATED LUAR NOT PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS, INSTEAD WILL STEP UP ACTIVITIES AIMED AT RADICALIZING POPULACE. RECALLING PRE-APRIL 25 REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES, CONGRESS SPEAKER WARNED THAT LUAR WOULD REVERT TO VIOLENT TACTICS IF CHANGED POLITICAL CONDITIONS WARRANTED. IN LIGHT OF TACTICS EMPLOYED BY LUAR MILITANTS IN RECENT WEEKS, WE CONSIDER THREAT TO RESORT TO VIOLENCE REAL. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 LISBON 01061 261348Z

1. LEAGUE FOR UNITY AND REVOLUTIONARY ACTION (LIGA DE UNIDADE E ACCAO REVOLUCIONARIA - LUAR) HELD ITS FIRST CONGRESS FEB 22-24. CONGRESS SESSIONS TOOK PLACE IN SECRET, ONLY FINAL SESSION BEING OPEN TO PUBLIC. SOME 400 DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS PARTICIPATED IN CLOSED SESSIONS.

2. LUAR SPOKESMAN STATED GROUP WOULD NOT RPT NOT PARTICIPATE IN APRIL 12 ELECTIONS NOR WOULD IT SUPPORT ANY OTHER POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. LUAR DEFINES ITSELF AS A MARXIST-REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION, HAVEIN SOCIAL REVOLUTION AND ELIMINATION OF CLASSES AS ITS ULTIMATE AIM. SINCE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS IS FOUGHT AT CLASS LEVEL, NOT WITH PARTIES, LUAR INTENDS CONSCIOUSLY AND IN ORGANIZED FASHION TO BRING ABOUT SHARPENING OF THIS STRUGGLE. LUAR WILL SUPPORT STRUGGLE OF WORKERS, FARMERS, SOLDIERS, AND SAILORS AND WILL SEEK TO PROMOTE ALLIANCES BETWEEN THEM.

3. REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN REVOLUTIONARY GROUPS, PRINCIPALLY LATIN AMERICA, WERE INVITED TO ATTEND COGRESS. REPS OF PORTUGUESE PARTIES WERE NOT. READING AT FINAL SESSION OF MESSAGES FROM AT LEAST TWO OTHER FAR LEFT PORTUGUESE PARTIES PROVOKED JEERS FROM AUDIENCE.

4. CONGRESS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS WERE NOT REVEALED, ALTHOUGH CONFIRMATION OF LONG TIME LUAR LEADER HERMINIO PALMA INACIO AS SECRETARY-GENERAL WAS ANNOUNCED. SPEAKERS AT PUBLIC SESSION SPOKE OF "CERTAIN PROBLEMS" ARISING DURING COURSE OF CONGRESS, WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED BY ACTIVISTS AT UNIT LEVEL AND, EVENTUALLY, RESOLVED AT NEW CONGRESS. PROBLEMS WERE NOT DISCLOSED. HOWEVER, ONE SPEAKER REFERRED TO STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS OF ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS.

5. COMMENT: ONE SPEAKER AT PUBLIC SESSION STATED THAT LUAR FINDS ITSELF PPORER THAN EVER (PRESUMABLY BECAUSE GROUP NO LONGER FINANCING ITS ACTIVITIES THROUGH BANK ROBBERIES, AS WAS CASE BEFORE APRIL 25). HE WARNED THAT, IF POLITICAL CONDITIONS IN PORTUGAL CHANGED, LUAR WOULD RETURN TO VIOLENT WAYS TO INSURE "THAT IT WOULD BE THE CAPITALISTS WHO FINANCE THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IN THIS COUNTRY." WHAT SPEAKER DID NOT SAY -- WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN SAVED FOR CONGRESS' CLOSED SESSIONS -- IS THAT LUAR MAY ALREADY BE ENGAGED IN CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE AGAINST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LISBON 01061 261348Z

CERTAIN DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. CDS LEADERS HAVE CLAIMED KNOWLEDGE OF LUAR PLOT TO STEP UP CAMPAIGN OF PHYSICAL ASSAULTS DIRECTED AGAINST CDS AND PPD DURING FINAL WEEKS BEFORE ELECTION(REFTEL). PPD LEADERS HAVE CLAIMED TO EMBOFFS THAT AT LEAST ONE OF RECENT DISTURBANCES AT PARTY RALLIES WAS WORK OF LUAR. GIVEN DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN ELECTION, LUAR WILL PROBABLY CONCENTRATE ON HARASSING DEMOGRATIC PARTIES.
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